

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application at a later date capturing the subject matter recited in claims 1-16 canceled herein.

Please amend claims 17 – 19 and 25, and add claims 31 – 45, as indicated below.

1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A Document Exchange (XDOC) framework for processing in-bound and out-bound documents in an electronic procurement system, comprising:

an Extensible Markup Language (XML) content configuration file module ~~for~~ configured to provide ~~providing~~ XML content gathered from a plurality of in-bound documents ~~in a coherent and cohesive markup format~~ and applied to out-bound documents responsive to said in-bound documents;

a conduit file module coupled to said XML configuration file ~~for~~ configured to receive ~~receiving~~ files in a first XML format and generate ~~generating~~ corresponding files in a second XML format; and

a persistent object framer (POF) module coupled to said XML content configuration file module ~~for~~ configured to maintain ~~maintaining~~ data persistence of files stored in a database external to said XDOC framework in said electronic procurement system, wherein said files stored in said database correspond to said XML content in said in-bound documents and said out-bound documents respectively.

18. (currently amended) The XDOC framework of Claim 17, wherein said XML content configuration file module comprises XML content retrieving logic ~~for configured to retrieve~~ retrieving XML content from data sources that are external and internal to said XML content configuration file module.

19. (currently amended) The XDOC framework of Claim 17, wherein said in-bound ~~and said out-bound~~ documents are purchase orders ~~respectively~~ describing information related to buyer requests in said electronic procurement system, and where said out-bound documents are purchase orders describing ~~and~~ supplier goods and services ~~information~~ in said electronic procurement system.

20. (Original) The XDOC framework of Claim 19, wherein said first XML file format is an Open Buying on the Internet (OBI) Standards compliant XML file.

21. (Original) The XDOC framework of Claim 17, wherein said files stored in said database are defined as data objects with related attributes.

22. (Original) The XDOC framework of Claim 21, wherein said attributes define in granular details, the contents of the data objects stored in said database.

23. (Original) The XDOC framework of Claim 20, wherein said markup content is substantially compliant with Handheld Device Markup Language content.

24. (Original) The XDOC framework of Claim 20, wherein said markup content comprises a content suitably adapted to interact with an Internet browser of a computer system.

25. (Currently amended) The XDOC framework of Claim 24, wherein said XML content configuration file modules further comprises availability logic ~~for configured to determine~~ determining whether content selected by a user in said in-bound documents is available for presentation in said out-bound documents.

26. (Original) A method for providing Extensible Markup Language (XML) content from a database to a purchase order request in an electronic purchasing network, said method comprising:

receiving a purchasing request cataloged in a plurality of in-bound documents by said electronic purchasing network, said purchasing request comprising goods, services and supplier information defining purchasing parameters specific and unique to a particular purchasing professional;

retrieving XML content in response to said purchasing request from data sources external and internal to said electronic purchasing network; and

transforming said retrieved XML content into appropriate content suitable for an underlying markup language of an Internet browser used by said purchasing professional.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said retrieving XML content comprises recursively traversing said data sources to identify data objects that correspond to the contents of said in-bound documents.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein said recursively traversing said data sources further comprise retrieving data attributes from said data sources, said data attributes further defining said data objects.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said transforming comprises loading a class of transformation parameters suitable for transforming said retrieved XML content in a manner specific and unique to a particular purchase order.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 26, wherein said external data source comprises catalogs of procurement items coupled to the Internet.

31. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving one or more input documents in a markup language, wherein the input documents comprise a purchasing request, wherein each input document comprises one or more tag names specifying purchasing parameters for the purchasing request;

parsing each of the one or more input document to identify each of the one or more tag names;

generating one or more data objects each corresponding to a respective tag name;

identifying one or more purchasing parameters related to one or more of the identified tag names;

generating one or more output documents in the markup language specifying a purchasing order to a supplier corresponding to the purchasing request specified in the one or more input documents, wherein the one or more output documents comprise:

one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters, and

one or more data attributes each corresponding to one of the one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

generating a data object tree of the one or more data objects based on relationships between the corresponding tag names as defined in the one or more input documents; and

wherein said identifying one or more purchasing parameters comprises traversing the data object tree comparing each data object of the tree to one or more data objects in a database specifying the one or more purchasing parameters.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said identifying one or more purchasing parameters further comprises identifying the one or more purchasing parameters based upon a configuration file defining relationships between the purchasing parameters and the one or more tag names.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the configuration file is one of a plurality of configuration files, wherein each configuration file defines different relationships between the purchasing parameters and the one or more tag names.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the markup language is eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

36. (New) A device, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises program instructions configured to:

receive one or more input documents in a markup language, wherein the input documents comprise a purchasing request, wherein each

input document comprises one or more tag names specifying purchasing parameters for the purchasing request;

parse each of the one or more input document to identify each of the one or more tag names;

generate one or more data objects each corresponding to a respective tag name;

identify one or more purchasing parameters related to one or more of the identified tag names;

generate one or more output documents in the markup language specifying a purchasing order to a supplier corresponding to the purchasing request specified in the one or more input documents, wherein the one or more output documents comprise:

one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters, and

one or more data attributes each corresponding to one of the one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters.

37. (New) The device of claim 36, wherein the program instructions are further configured to:

generate a data object tree of the one or more data objects based on relationships between the corresponding tag names as defined in the one or more input documents; and

wherein in said identifying one or more purchasing parameters the program instructions are further configured to traverse the data object tree comparing each data object of the tree to one or more data objects in a database specifying the one or more purchasing parameters.

38. (New) The device of claim 37, wherein in said identifying one or more purchasing parameters the program instructions are further configured to identify the one or more purchasing parameters based upon a configuration file defining relationships between the purchasing parameters and the one or more tag names.

39. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the configuration file is one of a plurality of configuration files, wherein each configuration file defines different relationships between purchasing parameters and one or more tag names.

40. (New) The device of claim 31, wherein the markup language is eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

41. (New) A computer accessible medium, comprising program instruction configured to implement:

receiving one or more input documents in a markup language, wherein the input documents comprise a purchasing request from a supplier, wherein each input document comprises one or more tag names specifying purchasing parameters for the purchasing request;

parsing each of the one or more input document to identify each of the one or more tag names;

generating one or more data objects each corresponding to a respective tag name;

identifying one or more purchasing parameters related to one or more of the identified tag names;

generating one or more output documents in the markup language specifying a purchasing order to the supplier corresponding to the purchasing request specified in the one or more input documents, wherein the one or more output documents comprise:

one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters, and

one or more data attributes each corresponding to one of the one or more tag names corresponding to the one or more identified purchasing parameters.

42. (New) The computer accessible medium of claim 41, wherein the program instructions are further configured to implement:

generating a data object tree of the one or more data objects based on relationships between the corresponding tag names as defined in the one or more input documents; and

wherein said identifying one or more purchasing parameters comprises traversing the data object tree comparing each data object of the tree to one or more data objects in a database specifying the one or more purchasing parameters.

43. (New) The computer accessible medium of claim 42, wherein in said identifying one or more purchasing parameters the program instructions are further configured to implement identifying the one or more purchasing parameters based upon a

configuration file defining relationships between the purchasing parameters and the one or more tag names.

44. (New) The computer accessible medium of claim 43, wherein the configuration file is one of a plurality of configuration files, wherein each configuration file defines different relationships between the purchasing parameters and the one or more tag names.

45. (New) The computer accessible medium of claim 41, wherein the markup language is eXtensible Markup Language (XML).